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GIPPING RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL

REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

YEAR 1965

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

(a) Medical Officer of Health

KATHLEEN M. HARDING,  
M.D., D.P.H., A.K.C.

(b) Chief Public Health Inspector

E.A. MORGAN,  
M.R.S.H., F.A.P.H.I.,

(c) District Public Health Inspectors

J.T. GREEN,  
M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

L.A. CAWDRON,  
M.R.S.H., A.M.I.P.H.E., M.A.P.H.I.

R.G. BAKER,  
M.R.S.H.

(To: 31/1/65)

(d) Meat Inspectors

S.W. LAWTON.

R.S. LINLEY.

(From: 20/4/65)

S. MORRISON.

(From: 9/8/65)

GIPPING RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL  
ANNUAL REPORT

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Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1965.

The figures contained therein do not call for any special comment by me, and it will be seen that 1965 was a healthy year for this Rural District.

One of the things that does not appear in this Report is a record of the diseases that disable, but do not kill. This is not because of an omission on my part, but because no figures are made available to me on this matter.

One of the commonest causes of disablement nowadays is "Slipped Disc". Most of the victims are energetic and active people in the prime of life. The pain from a slipped disc is overwhelming and cannot be ignored, yet no so many years ago this condition was almost unheard of. Many things have been blamed for the increased incidence of this disability in the present time. One factor which must be taken into consideration is more accurate diagnosis of the condition. Many cases of so-called "Sciatica" in the old days were really slipped disc. It also appears that the body of man, accustomed to the cushioned comfort of Twentieth Century living, has become ill-equipped to cope with sudden and unusual strains and stresses when these occur.

There are certain measures which can be taken to lessen the risk of acquiring a slipped disc. When a heavy weight has to be lifted, it should be done with the muscles in the legs, and not the back. In other words, the back should be kept as straight as possible, and the knees bent in reaching the object which can then be lifted by straightening the legs. People who have a "hollow back" should not try to cure it by exercises. A hollow back is of the greatest assistance in keeping spinal discs in place. Invalids tend to half-sit in bed with the greater part of the back supported by pillows and the lower back unsupported. This can bring about conditions which enable a disc to be displaced. Modern car seats do not always give firm support to the small of the back. On long journeys this can cause trouble. You cannot always prevent a slipped disc from occurring but, by observing the above precautions, you can lower the risk.

A good deal is heard nowadays about periodical medical examinations and screening tests. The difficulties about regular medical checks are various. Firstly, it must be admitted that a full physical check-up may not reveal the presence of a disease in its early stages. A person might, therefore, be given a false sense of security and fail to seek medical advice at a later date when he begins to feel off colour. Secondly there are not enough doctors to carry out these examinations. These considerations have led to the suggestion that regular medical checks should be confined to certain sections of the community. Everyone is aware that the proportion of elderly people in the population is increasing year by year. From economic, as well as humanitarian reasons, it behoves us to keep these old people as fit and healthy as possible. The Borough of Dagenham has been a pioneer in this respect, and special clinics are held to which old-age pensioners are invited.

Besides a general physical examination, special attention is given to seeing that their glasses are suitable, that their dentures fit properly, that, if deaf, they are referred to the hearing-aid clinic, and that corns and other foot troubles do not prevent them from enjoying a walk. Some people may feel that nowadays, Clinics for the Elderly are a greater necessity than Clinics for young babies.

The 45 - 55 age group has also been suggested as one that would benefit from a special medical check. Many serious illnesses first make their appearance at this time of life, and most of them are amenable to treatment if diagnosed in the early stages. At present, medical examinations of this age group are confined to certain industrial and other concerns.

The alternative to periodical medical examinations by doctors, is screening for certain diseases which often can be carried out by nurses and medical auxillaries. Examples of this in this County are the screening tests to exclude deafness and phenylpyruvic acid which the Health Visitors do on all young babies. School children have, when their parents agree, skin tests to see if they are positive to tuberculosis, and adults can have Mass Radiography to exclude chest disease. Special tests are available to see if a person has diabetes or kidney disease and the most recent, and most talked about test, is the one to see if a woman is likely to suffer from Cancer of the neck of the womb. This test is not yet available in this area, but it will be coming.

It has been suggested that periodical medical examinations and screening will produce a nation of hypochondriacs, but I do not think this is so. We must move away from the concept of only treating disease when it has become well-established; and on to the idea of seeking out the earliest beginnings of disease and wiping it out with all the marvellous remedies which are now at our disposal.

In conclusion, I should like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council, and the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their encouragement and support during the past year. My thanks are also due to Mr. Morgan, the Additional Public Health Inspectors and Mr. Scoggins, Clerk of the Public Health Department, for their ever-ready assistance and co-operation.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

K.M. HARDING.

Medical Officer of Health.

## GENERAL STATISTICS

Area	...	...	...	...	78,464 acres
Population (Registrar General's Estimate)	...				21,830
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£524,502
Sum represented by a Penny Rate ..			...		£1,995

## BIRTHS

		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Total	...	187	192	379
Legitimate	...	180	188	368
Illegitimate	...	7	4	11

## STILLBIRTHS

		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Total	...	2	-	2
Legitimate	...	2	-	2
Illegitimate	...	-	-	-

## LIVE BIRTH RATE

Crude birth rate per 1,000 population	....	17.36
Comparability factor	.....	1.08
Standardised birth rate	.....	18.74
Birth rate England and Wales	.....	18.0
Stillbirth rate (per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)	....	5.25
Stillbirth rate England and Wales	....	15.7

## INFANT MORTALITY

Deaths of infants under one year of age:

		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Total	...	3	4	7
Legitimate	...	3	4	7
Illegitimate	...	-	-	-

Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births . . .	18.47
Infant mortality rate England and Wales . . .	19.0

Deaths of infants under four weeks of age

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Total . . . . .	3	3	6
Legitimate . . . . .	3	3	6
Illegitimate . . . . .	-	-	-

DEATHS

All causes:	Total	217
	Male	115
	Female	102

Crude death rate per 1,000 of population	9.94
Comparability factor . . . . .	0.79
Standardised death rate . . . . .	7.85
Death rate England and Wales . . . . .	11.5

COMPARATIVE STATISTICAL TABLE FOR THE PAST SIX YEARS

	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965
Estimated population	19,530	20,030	20,160	20,540	20,800	21,830
Live Births	299	314	306	328	366	379
Crude Birth Rate	15.31	15.68	15.2	15.97	17.60	17.36
Standardised Birth Rate	16.69	17.09	16.6	17.25	19.01	18.74
Total Infant Deaths	4	5	2	7	6	7
Infant Mortality Rate	13.38	15.92	6.53	20.96	16.39	18.47
Total Deaths	219	231	221	231	216	217
Crude death rate per 1,000 population	11.21	11.53	11.96	11.25	10.38	9.94
Standardised Death Rate	9.31	9.34	9.4	9.45	8.72	7.85

TUBERCULOSIS DEATH RATE (per 1,000 population)

East Suffolk County . . . . .	0.02
Gipping Rural District . . . . .	Nil

CANCER DEATH RATE (per 1,000 population)

East Suffolk County . . . . .	2.14
Gipping Rural District . . . . .	0.69

CLASSIFIED CAUSES OF DEATH (REGISTRAR GENERAL'S FIGURES)

		<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Total 1965</u>	<u>Total 1964</u>
1.	Tuberculosis - respiratory	-	-	-	1
2.	Tuberculosis - other	-	-	-	-
3.	Diphtheria	-	-	-	-
4.	Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-
5.	Meningococcal infections	-	-	-	-
6.	Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-
7.	Measles	-	-	-	-
8.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	1	2	1
9.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	3	5	4
10.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	7	4	11	4
11.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	3	3	5
12.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	2	2	2
13.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	9	3	12	22
14.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-	-	3
15.	Diabetes	-	4	4	7
16.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	12	14	26	27
17.	Coronary disease, angina	24	17	41	39
18.	Hypertension with heart disease	2	-	2	2
19.	Other heart disease	19	14	33	38
20.	Other circulatory disease	6	7	13	8
21.	Influenza	1	-	1	-
22.	Pneumonia	8	11	19	9
23.	Bronchitis	3	1	4	8
24.	Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-	1	2
25.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	1	3	2
26.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-	-	-
27.	Nephritis and nephrosis	2	1	3	-
28.	Congenital malformations	1	2	3	1
29.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	9	12	21	21
30.	Motor vehicle accidents	1	-	1	4
31.	All other accidents	4	2	6	4
32.	Suicide	1	-	1	2
		115	102	217	216

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (EXCLUDING TUBERCULOSIS)

PERIOD DISTRIBUTION OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES - 1965

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Totals
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
Measles	2	5	57	24	32	28	5	5	10	-	-	2	170
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Scarlet Fever	2	2	6	1	3	2	2	2	-	-	2	24	
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
TOTALS:	4	7	63	28	35	32	7	7	14	-	-	4	201

AGE DISTRIBUTION OF NOTIFIED CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES - 1965

	Age in years												
	0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	25-	45-	65+	Not Known	Totals
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	2
Measles	5	13	23	14	25	66	18	3	1	-	-	2	170
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	2	16	2	2	1	-	-	1	24
Whooping Cough	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Totals:	6	13	24	14	28	84	21	6	2	-	-	3	201

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE TOTALS FOR PAST SIX YEARS

Disease	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965
Scarlet Fever	7	4	10	11	3	24
Whooping Cough	35	34	-	12	5	3
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	111	468	19	268	152	170
Acute Pneumonia	1	4	3	3	1	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	-	1
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	1	-	9	44	2
Ophthalmia neonatorum	1	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	1	-	-	1
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid	4	-	-	-	-	-
Typhoid	-	-	-	1	-	-
Erysipelas	2	-	3	2	1	-
Infective Hepatitis	3	1	3	1	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS

(1) New Cases notified:

Pulmonary (Lungs)	1 Male	- Females
Non-Pulmonary (Glands, bones, joints)	- Males	- Females

(2) Ages of new Cases:

Pulmonary:	Males 67	Females Nil
Non-Pulmonary:	Males Nil	Females Nil

(3) Inward Transfers:

Pulmonary:	Males	Nil	Females	1
Non-Pulmonary:	Males	Nil	Females	Nil

(4) Cases crossed-off register as recovered during the year:

Pulmonary:	Males	1	Females	2
Non-Pulmonary:	Males	Nil	Females	1

(5) Died during the year:

Pulmonary:	Males	Nil	Females	Nil
Non-Pulmonary:	Males	Nil	Females	Nil

(6) Outward Transfers

Pulmonary:	Males	Nil	Females	Nil
Non-Pulmonary:	Males	Nil	Females	Nil

(7) Cases on register at end of year:

Pulmonary:	Males	28	Females	18
Non-Pulmonary:	Males	9	Females	11

(8) Tuberculosis Notification Rate - per 1,000 population

East Suffolk County	-	0.17
Gipping Rural District	-	0.05

(9) Statistics for the past six years:

	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965
Primary Notifications	10	7	5	10	6	1
Transfers In	3	5	Nil	2	1	1
Notification Rate per 1,000 population	0.51	0.34	0.25	0.48	0.29	0.05
Deaths	1	3	3	5	Nil	Nil
Date Rate per 1,000 population	0.05	0.14	0.15	0.24	Nil	Nil

## FOOD POISONING

### 1. Notifications (corrected) returned to the Registrar General

1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Total
-	-	2	-	2

### 2. Outbreaks due to identified agents

Total outbreaks	- One	Total cases	- Two
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Outbreaks due to:-

(a) Chemical Poisons	Nil
(b) Salmonella Organisms	Nil
(c) Staphylococci (including toxin)	Nil
(d) Cl. Botulinum	Nil
(e) Other bacteria (Shigella Sonnei)	Two

### 3. Outbreaks of undiscovered cause

Total outbreaks	- Nil	Total cases	- Nil
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### 4. Single cases

Agent identified - Nil

Unknown cause	- Nil	Total cases	- Nil
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## VACCINATIONS AND IMMUNISATIONS

(Figures kindly supplied by the County Medical Officer of Health)

### VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

(a) Number of primary vaccinations in 1965	.....	270
(b) Number of revaccinations in 1965	.....	9

### IMMUNISATIONS

Number of persons receiving immunisations in 1965 for:-

	<u>Primary</u>	<u>Booster</u>
Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis/Polio	39	12
Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis	246	107
Diphtheria/Pertussis	-	1
Diphtheria/Tetanus	-	110
Diphtheria	-	26
Pertussis	-	-
Tetanus	23	8
Salk Polio	4	82
Sabin Polio	274	98

No action was taken under Section 47 of this Act during the year.

WELL WATER CYANOSIS

Number of samples taken in 1965	...	...	5
Number considered safe	...	...	4
Number considered doubtful	...	...	1
Number considered unsafe	...	...	-

In the case where the supply was not reported as safe, the person concerned was advised where an alternative supply could be obtained.

WATER SUPPLIES

(A) Public Supplies - Bacteriological Examination

1. Samples of each of our bulk supplies which are taken from other local authorities (Cosford, Deben, Ipswich and Thedwastre) were all reported to be very satisfactory.
2. Samples from our public mains and borewells were as follows:-

Satisfactory	...	...	58
Unsatisfactory	...	...	12

3. Public Supplies - Chemical Analysis (taken from source)

The reports given by the Public Analyst are shown below:-

Pumping Station, Kirby Rise, Barham

"This water is of very good organic quality and there is no chemical evidence of pollution. The analysis differs little from that of the sample examined in October, 1964. The total hardness is nearly 24° Clark and the reaction of the water is neutral. The iron content is negligible and the fluorine content is low, as with many East Anglian waters. In our opinion this water is suitable for drinking and general purposes".

Pumping Station, Winston

"The organic quality of this water is good and there is no chemical evidence of pollution. The analytical results are very similar to those obtained when this water was examined in October, 1964. The total hardness is nearly 34° Clark, of which 21° are temporary. Though the reaction of the water is neutral, this type of water might have some solvent action on metals. Iron is present and gives rise to a rusty deposit on standing. This should be removed to avoid inconvenience to consumers. Given appropriate treatment, this water should be suitable for drinking and general purposes."

Debenham Road, Winston (Ex Pumping Station, Winston)

"We are informed that this is a sample of the water from Winston Pumping Station after it had been "softened by the base exchange system". We find, however, that the total hardness has been reduced by only 60 parts per million and the total hardness of the present sample is still nearly 30° Clark. The pH has been raised, however, so that the solvent action on metals is very much reduced, and the iron content has been reduced to the point that there is no longer any deposit on standing. The fluorine content is about half the optimum from the point of view of dental health. This water would be improved if the hardness were further reduced but, with this reservation, this water is suitable for drinking and general purposes."

Pumping Station, Stowupland

"This water is of good organic quality and the chemical analysis does not suggest that pollution is occurring. As compared with the previous analysis, the total hardness is much higher, and the analysis as a whole is similar to that of the sample taken in October, 1963. It appears that the sample taken in November, 1964 was in this respect abnormal. The water contains a heavy trace of iron, which must be removed by appropriate treatment. Provided this is done, this water should be suitable for drinking and general purposes."

(B) Private Supplies - Bacteriological Examination

1.	<u>Borewells</u>	Satisfactory	1
		Unsatisfactory	1
2.	<u>Deep-wells</u>	Satisfactory	2
		Unsatisfactory	1
3.	<u>Shallow-wells</u>	Satisfactory	1
		Unsatisfactory	1
4.	<u>Pond Supply</u>	Satisfactory	1
		Unsatisfactory	-

(C) The number of dwelling houses supplied from public mains is given below according to parish distribution:-

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Laid on to properties</u>	<u>Taken from standpipes</u>
Ashbocking	72	20
Ashfield-cum-Thorpe	48	-
Badley	17	-
Barham	186	6
Barking	108	-
Battisford	111	-
Bayham	61	-
Bramford	673	-
Buxhall	131	-
Claydon	263	-
Coddenham	162	-
Combs	164	-

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Laid on to properties</u>	<u>Taken from standpipes</u>
Creeting St. Mary	220	18
Creeting St. Peter	47	-
Crowfield	95	25
Debenham	354	33
Flowton	27	-
Framnsden	120	-
Gipping	25	-
Gosbeck	53	12
Great Blakenham	169	-
Great Bricett	36	13
Great Finborough	118	3
Harleston	33	-
Haughley	319	21
Helmingham	73	-
Hemingstone	39	3
Henley	72	9
Little Blakenham	34	-
Little Finborough	16	-
Mickfield	30	12
Needham Market	530	3
Nettlestead	27	-
Old Newton	198	-
Offton	64	-
Onehouse	151	-
Pettaugh	53	12
Ringshall	82	-
Shelland	29	-
Somersham	149	-
Stonham Aspal	114	49
Stonham Earl	150	9
Stonham Parva	76	40
Stowupland	488	-
Wetherden	155	-
Whitton	11	-
Willisham	79	-
Winston	41	9
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TOTALS	6,273	297
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## FOOD

59 inspections of registered food premises were made during the year.

Statistics relating to registrations under the Food and Drugs Act are as follows:-

Ice Cream - 59; Sausages etc - 6; Fish Frying - 6.

FOOD - Meat inspection statistics are given below:-

	CATTLE EXCLUDING COWS	COWS	CALVES	SHEEP AND LAMBS	BOARS PIGS SOWS
Number killed	1028	123	40	942	84,445
Number inspected	1028	123	40	942	84,445
<u>All diseases except</u>					
<u>Tuberculosis &amp; Cysticerci:</u>					
Whole carcases condemned	4	1	6	26	472
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	257	50	-	628	46,741
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than tuberculosis or cysticerci	25.39	41.46	15	69.43	55.91

	CATTLE EXCLUDING COWS	COWS	CALVES	SHEEP AND LAMBS	BOARS PIGS SOWS
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>					
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	1699
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	2.01
<u>Cysticercosis:</u>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

Freshly slaughtered meat found to be unsound at the time of inspection  
is stained with green dye and collected for processing by Contractors.

## BIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK

By agreement with the East Suffolk County Council, Public Health Officers of the County Council are responsible for the routine sampling for examination of all milk supplied in this Rural District. In cases where infection is found restraint notices are served.

## Examination of Milk Supplies

Statutory: 39 samples taken (including 9 school milks).  
All results satisfactory.

Chemical Analysis: 15 samples taken (including 4 school milks).  
All results satisfactory.

Biological: 35 samples taken (15 samples produced in the Rural District but sampled at Stowmarket. All samples found to be positive for Brucella).

Antibiotics: 62 samples taken (2 samples positive) 21 samples produced in the Rural District but sampled at Stowmarket; 2 of these were found to contain antibiotics.

## HOUSING

### Summary of Housing Activities

Number of houses inspected	60
Number found to unsatisfactory	44
Number rendered fit by	26
(a) informal action	
(b) action under Public	
Health Act	3
(c) action under	
Housing Act	9
Number of Demolition Orders secured	14
Number of dwellings included in Clearance Areas	
secured	nil
Number of dwellings demolished under Demolition	
Orders	11
Number of dwellings demolished under Clearance	
Orders	9
Number of dwellings in respect of which Closing	
Orders were made	12
Housing Act, 1949 - Number of Improvement Grants	
(Discretionary and Standard approved)	78

## HOUSING (Continued)

I am indebted to Mr. J. Black, Engineer and Surveyor, for the following reports:-

### (a) Council Houses

Completed	39
Under construction (31.12.65)	20
Total completed (post war)	771

### (b) Private Houses (Permanent)

Completed	379
Under construction (31.12.65)	284
Total completed (post war)	1575

### (c) Private Houses (Temporary)

Completed	nil
Under construction (31.12.65)	nil
Total completed (post war)	27

Grand total of Housing Units completed in the post-war period to 31st December, 1965 is, therefore, 2,373.

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The position at the end of the year was as follows:-

### Schemes in progress

Henley  
Stowupland (Saxham Street extension)

### Schemes contemplated

Barham (part-parish scheme)  
Combs and Battisford  
Creeting St. Peter  
Great Finborough and Buxhall  
Somersham and Little Blakenham  
Wetherden and New Street, Haughley.



